

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF WAYNE COUNTY SERGEANT JOSEPH AYOTTE

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2018*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Joseph Ayotte, a dedicated member of the Wayne County Sheriff's Office whose quick response and expert training saved the life of a fellow officer, Rochester Police Sergeant Ralph J. Gagliano.

On November 26, 2013, Sergeant Gagliano was driving home when he suffered a severe headache and subsequently lost control of his vehicle, veering off the road. Arriving on scene, Sergeant Ayotte quickly assessed Sergeant Gagliano, determining the occurrence of a medical emergency. Following transportation to the hospital, the sergeant underwent emergency surgery for a brain aneurysm and awoke 21 days later with no memory of the incident.

Following his retirement on March 2, 2018, a date Sergeant Gagliano may have never seen had it not been for Sergeant Ayotte's imperative and professional conduct, Sergeant Gagliano presented Sergeant Ayotte with the Life Saving Award. Sergeant Ayotte and his actions that day emblemize why we have such tremendous love and respect for our officers and first responders. Perhaps the message on the Life Saving Award says it best, "Your Actions on that day will always be remembered."

Prior to representing Central New York in Congress, I spent nearly my entire professional career serving as a federal prosecutor, working alongside our local law enforcement and first responders to improve the safety and stability of our communities. I have always held the utmost of respect for the difficult jobs of our first responders, and I recognize the challenges they face, which grow greater every day. Yet, they never shirk their duty and always rise to the occasion. I greatly commend them for their dedication to serving our community—a community that includes fellow police officer Ralph J. Gagliano—and I thank them wholeheartedly for their service each and every day.

### SOUTHERN COLORADO SOAP BOX DERBY TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2018*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Southern Colorado Soap Box Derby and the individuals—participants, parents and organizers—who have made it an enriching community event to look forward to. On July 8, 1937, boys ages 9–12 entered cars they designed out of soap boxes, wood and

metal for the very first Southern Colorado Soap Box Derby, which took place on West Street in Pueblo, Colorado. At the end of this event, the first place winner was sent to compete in the national championship in Akron, Ohio.

One year later in 1938, the races stopped due to World War II. They began again almost 20 years later in 1962, this time taking place on Constitution Hill with 62 racers ages 9–15. With the help of 28 orphans from Sacred Heart Home and Youth Center and several convicts of the Colorado State Penitentiary, all of the derby cars were successfully built by race time. The revived competition led to some new additions, one being the implementation of a Derby Queen who was chosen from the list of names submitted by the racers. The very first Derby Queen was Sharon Galbraith of Pueblo.

As the race evolved, by 1966 standard wheels and steering assemblies were required to give equal opportunity to all racers. Joplin Hill on Pueblo's east side was determined to be the best hill for gravity and the competition moved once again. Boys from communities including Pueblo, Denver, Boulder, Greeley and Loveland traveled to participate in the derby competition. Attendance steadily increased, ranging from a few hundred to 5,000 spectators.

Unfortunately, three years later, the derby was once more on the brink of shutting down due to a lack of funding. Only one more race was scheduled to be held. This lack of funding threatened derby winner Steve Espinosa's chances of going to the national competition in Ohio. However, thanks to the generosity of the Pueblo Star Journal and radio station KKAM's manager Dwight Shaw, enough funds were donated to send Steve to Ohio.

In 2006 after a long 37 years, the Southern Colorado Soap Box Derby started up again and has been held every year since. In that time, many positive changes have been instituted to be more inclusive, fair and safe: it's now open to both girls and boys ages 7–21; all derby cars have been built from a kit with strict adherence to all nuts and bolts; and contestants must qualify for one of three divisions to race. Since 2006, the highlight of each race has been Officer Randy Belisle of the Colorado State Patrol using his radar gun to clock the speed of each racer as he or she comes down the hill. With speeds ranging from 28 to 31 mph, Officer Belisle then issues each racer a "ticket" for speeding.

Mr. Speaker, the Southern Colorado Soap Box Derby is a fun and important part of the culture and history of Pueblo, Colorado. Throughout the years, this great event has enhanced community engagement and served as a way to teach youth the skills of workmanship and perseverance to complete the task at hand. I look forward to watching the races and I wish all the contestants good luck.

### EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF TOMMY ROBINSON

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2018*

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the following purpose.

I want to share my concern about the arrest and conviction of Tommy Robinson in Great Britain. I am well aware that England does not share our free speech values and does not have the equivalent of a First Amendment. Indeed, the restrictive practices of England led directly to the birth of this great nation and the freedom we enjoy here.

Mr. Robinson, a British activist and journalist, was arrested and jailed for simply filming outside a public courtroom, and was sentenced to 13 months for this "crime." His real crime is not taking pictures; His real crime is his refusal to agree to the government's efforts to cover up crimes by Muslim gangs who are raping British girls, almost with impunity, and with little apparent regard by the British government.

If this act violated a term of probation, it would mean the court system in England is a key part of the problem, covering up for criminals by imposing gag orders as terms of probation.

Dissent is patriotic when the ruling class are illegitimate and oppressive. The ruling class in England appears fearful of the truth. When it bans discussion, and when it criminalizes the truth, any such government can fairly be labeled as both oppressive and tyrannical. I object to the suppression of the truth.

England has a proud history and America is its progeny, but it needs to take back its liberty and freedom. "It's all for nothing if you don't have freedom," Braveheart (1995).

### HONORING THE PANA FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 12, 2018*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courageous members of the Pana Fire Department and congratulate them on being awarded the Firefighter Excellence Unit Citation Award at the Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial and Firefighting Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony in May.

Chief Rodney Bland and the firefighters from the Pana Fire Department were recognized for their actions in responding to a house fire in April of 2017. After responding to a call and being told that two children were trapped in the house, firefighters made multiple attempts to enter the second floor and

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